

4.8 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Jefferson Park

Jefferson Park is the largest and most fully equipped park in the Menasha Park System, providing the setting for many major local festivals. Bordered by Third Street, Konemac Street and the Fox River, the park contains 28.9 acres and features a small island that has been known to generations of children as Peanut Island because of its shape. Picnickers enjoy a magnificent view of the Fox River and find 12 reservable picnic areas and plenty of open space and playground equipment in the park. Boaters make use of several convenient docks and launches. Seasonal mooring is available for craft under 21 feet in length. Three tournament softball diamonds, three of which are lighted, horseshoe pits, two volleyball courts, and acres of open area for football, soccer, or simply relaxation await the outdoor sports enthusiast. All major boat ramps at this site were repaired in 2005.

The Menasha Municipal Pool complex is also located in Jefferson Park. The complex consists of a zero-depth pool for waders, two water slides, and a jump platform. An award-winning pavilion, which may be reserved for family gatherings and other events, provides kitchen facilities, restrooms, and a shelter. Annual events at the park include Seafood Fest, Communityfest Celebration, Independence Day fireworks, and Jazzfest as well as a variety of company picnics.

Smith Park

Smith Park is located on Doty Island in the southern portion of the City. The park celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 1997, making it one of the oldest city parks in the state. Smith Park is bordered by Cleveland and Park Streets to the east and west, Nicolet Boulevard to the south and Fox River on the north. This 23.9-acre park features a large pavilion complete with kitchen facilities. Also located within the park are picnic facilities, playground equipment, volleyball court, four tennis courts, softball diamond and soccer field.

Several unique features make Smith Park

an attraction worth seeing and an important community asset. A railroad caboose, presented to the Menasha Historical Society, commemorates the fact that Menasha was the birthplace of the original Wisconsin Central Railroad. At the southern end of the park are several Indian burial mounds - large settlements of Fox and Winnebago Indians once inhabited this area - and a natural amphitheater used for summer concerts. The north end of the park features semi-formal gardens planted each year with approximately 6,000 annuals, a setting that is a favorite for summer weddings. A gazebo funded with corporate donations was built in this area in 1997.



Smith Park

Many recreation programs are held in the park. Various entertainers offer free performances every other Tuesday night in the pavilion. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park.

The Memorial Building and playground area are located north of Keyes Street on the Fox River. The "Mem" is a multiple-use facility utilized for recreation programs and is headquarters for the Menasha Historical Society. A shore wall with decorative lighting was installed behind the "Mem" in 1998 as part of the island renovation plan. Other facilities on the grounds include four tennis courts that were renovated in 2004, playground equipment, a basketball court, and an area for seasonal boat mooring operated by the Menasha Dock Association. Groomed cross-country ski trails are also available. An "Isle of Valor" monument honoring two Menasha Medal of Honor recipients was constructed in 2007. The area will be located behind the Memorial Building and includes a new pedestrian bridge.

Koslo Park

A 12-acre park located east of Highway 47 and north of Airport Road, Koslo Park is bordered by London Street and Geneva Road. It features a semi-professional lighted baseball diamond, softball diamond, lighted basketball court, volleyball court, pole shelter and a variety of playground apparatus. The park serves as the home field of the Menasha Macs and Twins and local high school baseball leagues. In 2000, the City entered into a unique lease-back agreement with Menasha Utilities which allowed for the installation of a state-of-the-art sports lighting system. A new scoreboard was installed in 2001.

Neenah
Bravers

Clovis Grove Park

Clovis Grove Park is located near the intersection of Ninth and Ida streets adjacent to Clovis



Clovis Grove Park

Grove Elementary School and is the third largest park in the Menasha system. This 12.5-acre park features seven lighted tennis courts, one touch football field, soccer field, one softball diamond, a sledding hill, playground equipment and a picnic shelter. The park also features a small 0.5 acre wooded area.

Hart Park

Hart Park is located on Seventh Street just west of Appleton Road. This 3.9 acre park includes restroom facilities, lighted basketball court, softball diamond/football field and playground area. A large, supervised, lighted ice rink and warming shelter is provided during winter months. The 1,000 square foot handicapped accessible shelter, which includes a fireplace, was constructed in 1994. The shelter is used year round for recreation programs including a summer playground program. A community well is being constructed in the northwest corner of the park and a 7,000 sq. ft. skateboard park was installed in 2002.

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Pleasants Park

Pleasants Park is bounded by Sixth, Seventh and Walbrun streets behind and west of Banta School. This 5.3-acre park includes four tennis courts, softball/baseball diamond, regulation soccer field, and a wide variety of playground equipment. *tennis courts were rehabilitated in 2008*

Shepard Park

Located on Doty Island between Mathewson Street and Garfield Avenue, Shepard Park fronts Little Lake Butte des Morts. Included in this 3.7-acre park are restroom facilities, softball diamond, basketball court, and playground area.

Barker Farm Park

Located east of Oneida Street in the Barker Farms Estates subdivision, the city's newest park expanded to 8.9 acres in 2000. The park was dedicated in 2005 and includes a picnic shelter, sledding hill, two tennis courts, an off street parking lot, playground equipment, a ball diamond, and a short asphalt trail system.

Clinton Center Park

Clinton Center Park is located on the corner of Second and Tayco Streets. This 0.6-acre park contains a variety of play equipment, a basketball court, and open play area.

Bridge Tower Greenspace and Museum

Located on Tayco Street just north of the Tayco Street bridge, this park was developed in 1996 to provide an attractively landscaped small pedestrian park to complement the adjacent Bridge Tower Museum, which depicts the Fox River's role in the area's historical development.

Scanlan Park

Scanlan Park occupies a small triangular parcel at the intersection of Kaukauna and Chute Streets. This 0.5-acre park features some playground facilities.

Menasha Marina and Riverwalk

Built in 1987, and a cornerstone of Menasha's redevelopment efforts, this important amenity is located in the heart of the downtown. The Marina and Riverwalk, which encompasses approximately three acres, is the site for numerous special events including a Steak Fry. The complex accommodates seasonal and transient docking for watercraft up to 40 feet in length. There are 88 slips located in the Marina and approximately 25+ transient slips located along the beautiful Riverwalk. Slips are equipped with potable water and electricity. City park crews have recently begun replacing pier decking and replacing floats. Marina patrons also have use of shower facilities, gasoline sales, sanitary head pump out, and a "ship's store". Adequate parking for Marina users is just a short walk away from the facility.

Conservancy Area East of Oneida Street

This conservancy area is presently over 40 acres in size but plans call for possible expansion to 100+ acres. The area consists primarily of wetlands so a modest development plan was approved in 2000. A parking lot is available off of Hwy. 10/114. As funds and time permit, additional trails could be cleared and marked to accommodate hiking and cross-country skiing. A *modest small*

wetland restoration project was undertaken in the spring of 2001 as part of a wetland mitigation process that was overseen by the DNR and the EPA.

Municipal Beach

A 1.4-acre parcel located on the shores of Lake Winnebago at the south end of Brighton Beach Road, the tract includes picnic facilities, a small play area, a sand volleyball court, and an unsupervised swimming area with a shore wall and beach area.

James Island

James Island is a 2.1-acre island located at the mouth of the Menasha Channel offshore of Shepard Park. The island is accessible by boat and is maintained in a natural wooded state. The island is home to a large colony of cormorants.

Winz Park

Winz Park is a unique 0.5-acre "hard surface" play area utilizing the top of the Menasha Utility's clearwell water storage facility. Located on the corner of Second and Manitowoc streets, the park features two tennis courts, 1½ basketball courts, and a hard surface activity area.

Curtis Reed Square

Named after one of Menasha's founding fathers, Curtis Reed Square serves as an urban plaza in the heart of the downtown. Located on the north side of Main Street between Milwaukee Street and Chute Street, the 0.8-acre park was created when the former intersection of these three streets was redesigned in 1997. A large wall mural, which depicts the history of Menasha, was erected on the east wall of City Hall in 2000, providing an impressive backdrop to the square and serving as a focal point for visitors to the downtown area. The square is a hub for many outdoor civic events.

Jefferson Park Swimming Pool

Built in 1958 and renovated in 1990, the Menasha swimming pool features a 200' waterslide, zero-depth entry, a kids' discovery fountain, concessions area and several large shade umbrellas. The 1990 renovation efforts did not address the condition of several key mechanical components and the bathhouse structure. Pool vessel/deck concerns have also been noted. ~~The city should give consideration to recommendations to be contained in a pool renovation study was completed in early 2007. Many decisions may be influenced by anticipated changes to state codes governing municipal pool operation.~~ *Future* *Compliance with Virginia Graham Baker Act (VGBA), are expected to be completed with DECO which mandates changes to pool ~~existing~~ drain grates will be completed prior to the 2010 season*

Ninth Street Boat Launch

Located at the west end of Ninth Street, this boat launch provides two ramps for boaters wishing to use Little Lake Butte des Morts. About 0.8 acres of surfaced area provides parking for 34 car-trailer units on the north side of the street. The ramp was lengthened and the docks were rehabilitated in 2006. *to the 2010 season*

Manitowoc Street Boat Launch

This boat launch is located on the south end of Manitowoc Street and provides access to Fox River and Lake Winnebago from the north bank of the Menasha Channel.

Park Street Boat Launch

The Park Street Boat Launch is located directly east of Smith Park on the north end of Park Street and provides access to the Fox River and Lake Winnebago from the south bank of the Menasha Channel.

Trestle Trail

Officially opened on August 27, 2005, the trail has proven to be extremely popular with local residents and visitors to the Fox Cities. The trail is open year round and is a valuable transportation and recreational trail link between the City and Town of Menasha. It features a unique lift bridge over the Menasha Lock (sponsored and built by Miron Construction, Inc.). The 1,600-foot long, lighted pedestrian bridge is the longest in Wisconsin and includes a center pavilion area with seating, and several fishing platforms along the way.

The award winning trestle project is part of the Wisconsin DNR's Friendship Trail that will ultimately run from Stevens Point to Manitowoc. For more area trail information visit

www.focol.org/greenways.

NEW REGIONAL PARK - ADD SHORT DESCRIPTION

4.9 Solid Waste Management and Recycling

Garbage is collected weekly by municipal crews utilizing automated collection equipment. Recyclables are collected curbside on a monthly basis. Brush and tree limbs are also collected at the curb once per month. Brush, yard wastes, and recyclables may be brought to the City Public Works Facility drop-off site during designated hours.

Yard waste is processed through a compost operation at the city garage. The finished compost is then available to residents free of charge. Solid waste is hauled to the Winnebago County Landfill Facility in Oshkosh. Recyclables are transported to the transfer station at the Winnebago County Facility. Once there, they are sorted and the paper recyclables are transferred to Outagamie County while the other recyclables are transferred to Brown County for final processing.

4.10 Communication and Power Facilities

Electric Power

Electric service is nearly exclusively provided by Menasha Utilities. Menasha Utilities owns and operates the electric distribution system in the City of Menasha, providing services to over 8,800 electric customers in the community. Significant investment has been made over the last several years to acquire all Menasha residences as customers. About 99% of the city is served by the utility with the remainder receiving electricity from WE Energies. On the average, the electric rates for Menasha Utilities customers are about 25% less than neighboring investor-owned utilities.

Menasha Utilities is a member-owner of Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), a regional power company serving 49 customer-owned electric utilities. Through WPPI, these public power utilities share resources and own generation facilities to provide reliable, affordable electricity to more than 190,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Iowa.

4.17 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

Following are the goals and objectives developed by the City of Menasha regarding utilities and community facilities.

Goal: Provide high quality and cost effective community facilities and services that meet existing and projected future needs.

Objectives

1. Support high level, cost effective service for solid waste, natural gas, electrical, telephone, cable, telecommunications, and other technology providers.
2. Consider the impacts of development proposals on community facilities and services, and balance the need for community growth with the cost of providing services.
3. Pursue additional cooperation between communities to avoid duplication of facilities and increase the cost effectiveness of services provided to residents.
4. Monitor the need for new, expanded, or continuation of rehabilitated services and local government facilities.
5. Increase coordination of utility and community facility planning with the location of future service areas as guided by the comprehensive plan, environmental considerations, economic development, and growth management policies.

Goal: Ensure proper treatment of wastewater to protect public health, groundwater quality, and surface water quality while meeting current and future needs.

Objectives

1. Plan sewer extensions and treatment facility improvements so that they can be installed incrementally as needed in a cost-effective manner.
2. Encourage the use of existing collection infrastructure and treatment capacity prior to the extension of new infrastructure or construction of new facilities.
3. Consider the use of sewer assessment policies and impact/development fees that will encourage compact development and discourage scattered development.

Library – Elisha D. Smith Public Library

1. Maintaining and improving library facilities and services shall be pursued within the planning period. This should include improvements with the library’s “e-branch” program through its website as well as other technological upgrades to meet citizen needs.
2. Department staffing, equipment and training levels shall be periodically reviewed to determine if the needs of the community are being met.
3. Continue relationship-building with private and individual contributors in order to reduce the burden on local government.
4. An effort to rekindle the ‘Friends of the Library’ program should be pursued. This program allows community volunteers to host fund-raising events as well as other volunteer duties.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

1. Concentrated residential developments shall be within a service area of a neighborhood community or regional park facility.
2. Ensure that neighborhood parks are incorporated into the design of future subdivisions.
3. Recreational resources should be expanded to meet demands where possible. When expansion due to natural physical limitations is not possible, recommendations should focus on maximizing use of the resource, improving management and decreasing conflicts.
4. Develop and pursue funding sources in addition to the tax levy for park and recreation facilities.
5. All park facilities shall be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
6. Acquire abandoned railroad corridors when available for trails.
7. Acquire lands to expand the existing park system to meet the demands of a changing and increasing population.
8. Funding for park land acquisition and improvement will be set aside annually.
9. Determine which lands within the community would enhance the park and open space system based on overall recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Attempt to acquire these lands.
10. Maintain open space and parkland through dedications, acquisitions, zoning, and the adoption of an official map delineating present and planned future parkland sites.
11. Ensure there are adequate flat parklands for activities such as soccer and ball games.

12. Ensure a sufficient quantity of suitable land is set aside for parks and recreational purposes during the site planning process for new residential development projects.
13. The city should work toward developing connectivity with trail systems within the Fox Valley area. *including the Friendship Trail segment from Ongida St. to ~~East~~ Lake Park Road*
14. The department should promote the importance of parks and programs in improving the quality of life of city residents.
15. Cooperate with adjacent municipalities, the MJSD, local groups and organizations, and developers to maximize cost-effectiveness of providing open space and recreational facilities.
16. Seek public input when planning for park and recreational development.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling

1. The city should periodically monitor the effectiveness of city-provided waste management and recycling services.
2. Consideration should be given to a new refuse and recycling route and position to keep pace with the demands of new development.
3. Solid waste disposal, transfer station and recycling sites shall be located in areas which limit the potential for adjacent impacts.
4. Promote waste reduction and recycling, including composting, through education and new programs.
5. The city shall continue to partner with Winnebago County, as one of a three county consortium (including Brown and Outagamie counties), to pursue cost-effective service provision for solid waste management and recycling.
6. Promote household hazardous waste programs and activities, such as the Clean Sweep program, with both Calumet and Winnebago counties.

Communication and Power Facilities

1. Telecommunication facilities and towers shall utilize existing facilities to the maximum extent possible.
2. Telecommunication towers shall be designed to be as unobtrusive as possible, support multi-use and/or reuse and be safe to adjacent properties.
3. Utility substations shall be located so as to be as unobtrusive as possible.